

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

TREASURY

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

INFO USSAGE NKP

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COGARD

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST BY POUCH

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

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COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: DECEMBER 24 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA

VC ACCUSE US OF "PROVOCATIVE ATTITUDE" IN REQUESTING INFO
ON MIAS. NOTE SIGNED BY VC CHIEF NEGOTIATOR SAID US
ACCUSATION OF DELIBERATE WITHHOLDING OF MIA INFO BY
NVN AND VC "REITERATED PROPAGANDA DISTORTIONS, SLANDER"
AND IS "ATTITUDE UNWORTHY...OF SERIOUS NEGOTIATING
PARTY" (UPI SAIGON).

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IN VATICAN, POPE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER CONTINUED STRIFE IN ME, N IRELAND AND VN. SAYS, "HOW CAN WE EXPRESS OUR ANGUISH IN FACE OF THE DIFFICULTIES THAT PEACE CONTINUOUSLY FINDS TO REAFFIRM ITSELF, EVEN WHERE IT COULD BE EXPECTED TO BE FINALLY ESTABLISHED AS IN VIETNAM?" (SUN; AP, CHITRIB).

COMMUNIST FORCES PRESS CLOSER TO PHUOC BINH, ISOLATED CAPITAL OF PHUOC LONG PROVINCE 80 MILES NORTH OF SAIGON. DRIVE, ACCOMPANIED BY FIERCE FIGHTING, APPEARS PART OF EFFORT TO WIDEN TERRITORY UNDER COMMUNIST CONTROL NEAR KHMER BORDER (CHITRIB). COMMUNISTS MAKE NEW TERRITORIAL GAINS IN OFFENSIVE THAT GVN ADMITS HAS COST IT OVER 6000 CASUALTIES IN PAST 18 DAYS: 1104 KIA, 4055 WIA AND 890 MIA. FIGHTING CENTERS IN PHUOC LONG,

IS PART OF DRIVE AIMED AT INFLECTING HEAVY LOSSES ON ARVN AND MAINTAINING CONTINUED ECON AND MIL PRESSURE ON GVN. SAIGON CLAIMS 4808 NVA AND VC KIA, BUT MIL OBSERVERS BELIEVE ESTIMATES MAY BE INFLATED SINCE MOST SAID TO BE KILLED BY ARTILLERY AND AIR STRIKES. DESPITE HIGH CASUALTY FIGURES, NEITHER THIEU REGIME NOR ARVN SHOWS ANY SIGNS OF CRUMBLING. MIL OBSERVERS SAY OFFENSIVE THREATENS TO PUT ALL PHUOC LONG PROVINCE IN COMMUNIST HANDS SINCE IT IS VULNERABLE, LYING CLOSE TO COMMUNIST BASE CAMPS IN CAMBODIA AND MOST OF ITS GARRISONS BEING WEAKLY DEFENDED BY MILITIA (AP, SUN). SVN HAS SO FAR LOST EIGHT DISTRICT TOWNS IN RECENT FIGHTING (UPI, WP).

NYT'S MARKHAM IN SAIGON, CITY THAT "MASKS ITS SUFFERING WELL," FINDS HOLIDAY GLOW THOUGH WAR INTENSIFIES. STREETS ARE CHOKED WITH XMAS SHOPPERS AND ONLOOKERS. COMMENTS THAT CHRISTIANITY NEVER CONQUERED VN, BUT MODERN, MATERIALISTIC XMAS IS ROOTED IN SAIGON WHERE GRATUITIES ARE GIVEN AND CARDS SENT. NVA OFFICER AT TAN SON NHUT APOLOGIZED TO CORRESPONDENTS FOR NOT DISTRIBUTING XMAS CARDS, BLAMED IT ON US' FAILURE TO CONDUCT WEEKLY LIAISON FLIGHT TO HANOI ON PREVIOUS DAY. NOTES AMBIGUITY AND EDGINESS IN SAIGON, BLAMES UNCLASSIFIED

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IT ON COMMUNIST MIL ACTION, WITH ARVN, TIRED AND SHORT OF FUEL AND AMMO AS A RESULT OF CONGRESSIONAL AID CUTS, AWAITING FURTHER BLOWS. SAIGON KNOWS WAR IS INTENSIFYING AND FEELS SCENE IS SHIFTING AWAY FROM POLITICAL TURMOIL THAT DOMINATED FALL MONTHS, AND BACK TO BATTLEFIELD. REV. THANH AGREES WAR IS TAKING PRIORITY OVER POLITICS; BASED ON TRAVELS IN DELTA, HE SAYS ARMY LACKS COMBATIVE SPIRIT. MARKHAM

SEES THANH BIDDING TIME, HOPING COMBINATION OF EVENTS WILL HELP OPPOSITION RESURFACE; AWAITING AN QUANG MEETING AT MONTH'S END AND RC BISHOPS' GET-TOGETHER NEXT MONTH TO SEE IF "SOMETHING WILL COME."

IN SECOND OF TWO ARTICLES ON DELTA, WP'S MCCOMBS FROM CAN THO DESCRIBES BEGINNING OF RICE HARVEST THAT IS EXPECTED TO BE GOOD. NOTES ECON STABILITY OF COUNTRY HANGS ON HARVEST'S SUCCESS. COMMUNISTS SAID TO BE FOCUSING MAJOR PART OF DRIVE ON EXPANDING CONTROL OF PEOPLE AND RICE-LAND IN DELTA, WHILE NEW GVN DEP PREMIER FOR ECON PLANNING HAO CONCENTRATES ON INCREASING RICE PRODUCTION IN TIME OF DECLINING US AID AND INTEREST IN VN. HAO HOPES FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN RICE THIS YEAR, BUT PLANS ARE BEING THWARTED BY COMMUNIST PUSH IN DELTA, SO HAO ADOPTS WAIT-AND-SEE STANCE BEFORE PUTTING THROUGH PROPOSED TOUGH ECON

MEASURES. MCCOMBS CALLS CAN THO CENTER OF ECON HEART OF SVN, DESCRIBES ALLUVIAL LANDSCAPE AND "METICULOUSNESS" OF RICE CULTURE. BUT UNDERNEATH APPEARANCES, SEES "NIGHTMARISH COMPLEXITY" WITH TAXES PAID TO BOTH SIDES, BRIBES TO GVN OFFICIALS, AND GOVT LOSING CONTROL OF HAMLETS. MANY ROADS INSECURE AND TALK IS OF GVN LOSS OF POLITICAL INFLUENCE AND MIL POSITION.

ON TRIP THROUGH DELTA TO VISIT MANY AREAS WHERE US OFFICIALS NO LONGER ALLOWED TO GO FOR SECURITY REASONS, MCCOMBS NOTES ENORMOUS MIL CONVOYS, RECENT INFILTRATION AND ATTACKS IN HITHERTO SAFE GO CONG PROVINCE, FIGHTING IN KIENHOA, STRONG COMMUNIST PRESENCE IN DINH TUONG, BATTALION-SIZED COMMUNIST ATTACKS IN VINHBINH, WITH WORST GVN DETERIORATION IN TRANS-BASSAC AREA OF SOUTHERN UNCLASSIFIED

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DELTA WHERE HIGH-RANKING OFFICIAL SAID MIL SITUATION IS BAD AND SOLDIERS IMMEDIATELY RUN FROM EVEN SMALL VC ATTACK ON OUTPOSTS.

MIL SOURCES SAY SEVERAL HUNDRED REBELLIOUS RLA SOLDIERS SHOT WAY INTO NW PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF BAN HOUAI SAI ON THAI BORDER. US AID REP REPORTEDLY CONFINED TO HOUSE BUT UNHURT. EMBASSY SAYS NO WESTERNERS REPORTED INJURED (AP VIENTIANE).

2. JAPAN

WP'S OBERDORFER IN TOKYO (LAT DEC 21) NOTES JAPAN'S BIG OIL REFINERS, THEIR MAJOR OFFICERS AND TRADE ASSN WENT ON TRIAL FRIDAY ON UNPRECEDENTED CRIMINAL CHARGES OF FORMING ILLEGAL PRICE AND PRODUCTION CARTELS; ALL

PLEADED NOT GUILTY. EXPLAINS FORMAL AND INFORMAL ARRANGEMENTS TO FIX PRICES, PRODUCTION AND PROFITS, OFTEN UNDER PROTECTIVE HAND OF GOJ "ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDANCE" HAVE BEEN WIDESPREAD BUSINESS PRACTICE FOR YEARS, BUT NOTES PUBLIC INDIGNATION AT RECENT PRICE HIKES AND GROWING FTC VIGOR HAVE CREATED NEW CLIMATE FOR ANTI-TRUST LAW ENFORCEMENT.

MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY ANNOUNCES IN HIROSHIMA THAT 60-MILE-LONG OIL SPILL CAUSED EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO FISHERIES AND SHORELINE OF INLAND SEA (REUTER, WP).

REUTER (TOKYO) REPORTS AGREEMENT BY SUDAN GOVT WITH NISSHO-IWAI, LONRHO (UK) AND GULF INTL OF KUWAIT TO BUILD WORLD'S BIGGEST SUGAR MILL IN SUDAN BY 1977. N-I SAYS 150 MIL DOL PLANT INITIALLY WILL REFIN 300,000 METRIC TONS PER YEAR FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION, INCREASING TO MILLION TONS IN 1980S, HALF OF WHICH TO BE EXPORTED TO NEARBY ARAB COUNTRIES.

NYT'S CRAIG WHITNEY IN BONN COMMENTS ON PRES' IMAGE ABROAD, FINDS IT FAVORABLE. QUOTES FORMER FM KIMURA SAYING, AFTER FORD VISIT: "THERE WAS NO TRACE OF WHAT PEOPLE CALL 'TRICKY NIXON COLOR' IN HIM." ANOTHER SENIOR GOJ OFFICIAL, NOT NAMED, SAID FORD SHOWED CONFIDENCE IN TALKS, WAS WELL UNCLASSIFIED

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INFORMED ON BASICS OF US-JAPAN RELATIONS -- BUT OFTEN TURNED TO HAK FOR DETAILS ON SPECIFICS, SUCH AS US BEEF AND SOYBEAN EXPORTS TO JAPAN.

3. CHINA

PRC PUBLICATION ("HISTORICAL RESEARCH") INDICATES THAT FIVE YEARS OF SINO-SOVIET FRONTIER NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BECOME DEADLOCKED, AFP (PEKING) REPORTS. PUBLICATION CALLS ON SOVIET TO WITHDRAW ITS TROOPS STATIONED IN MONGOLIA AND REDUCE ITS FORCES ON CHINA BORDER TO THEIR "KHRUSHCHEV PERIOD LEVEL," MEANING 1964 LEVEL. ARTICLE RECALLS THAT CHINESE REGARD ABOUT ONE MILLION SQUARE MILES OF TERRITORY TO HAVE BEEN SEIZED BY CZARIST RUSSIA UNDER "UNEQUAL TREATIES," BUT CONSIDER TREATIES AS BASIS FOR SETTLEMENT, EXCEPT FOR RETURN OF SOME TERRITORY. THIS INVOLVES ABOUT 12,500 SQUARE MILES IN PAMIRS AND AMUR AND USSURI ISLANDS (NYT).

UPI (HK)REPORTS PEKING RADIO'S CLAIM THAT CHINA HARVESTED HER BIGGEST GRAIN CROP IN HISTORY THIS

YEAR, WITH "FAIRLY BIG INCREASE" OVER 1973, WHEN PREVIOUS RECORD OF MORE THAN 250 MILLION TONS WAS SET (NYDN, CHITRIB, NYT).

4. HONG KONG

REUTER'S CHUAN, IN HK, REPORTS ARABS ARE STEPPING UP TRADE AND FINANCIAL LINKS WITH COLONY. HK TRADE TEAM IS TO TOUR ME FOR FIRST TIME EARLY NEXT YEAR. EGYPTIAN CONSUL SAYS BILATERAL TRADE BETWEEN HK AND ARAB COUNTRIES IS EXPECTED TO TOP 300 MILLION DOLS THIS YEAR, REPRESENTING JUMP OF NEARLY 80 PERCENT OVER 1973.

5. THAILAND

COMMERCE DEPUTY MINISTER PRASONG ANNOUNCED IN PEKING DEC. 24 THAT THAILAND HAS REACHED FIRM AGREEMENT WITH PRC ON ESTABLISHING DIRECT TRADE RELATIONS. UNCLASSIFIED

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PRASONG SAID HIS TALKS WITH CHINESE HAVE CONCENTRATED

MAINLY ON EXCHANGES OF INDUSTRIAL RAW MATERIALS, WHICH WOULD BE ON CASH OR "PARALLEL TRADE" BASIS, RATHER THAN THROUGH BARTER AGREEMENTS. ASKED IF HIS MISSION HAD DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, PRASONG SAID: "WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT TRADE, AND THIS WILL LEAD TO OTHER RELATIONS" (REUTER'S PEARCE).

6. KOREA

SK JUSTICE MINISTRY SAYS 2,781 PRISONERS WILL BE AMNESTIED DEC 24 FOR CHRISTMAS (WP). BUT THESE WILL NOT INCLUDE POLITICAL PRISONERS -- ABOUT 200 STUDENTS, OPPOSITION POLITICIANS, INTELLECTUALS AAMNESTIED DEC 24 FOR CHRISTMAS (WP). AND CHRISTIAN LEADERS (REUTER SEOUL).

7. AUSTRALIA

AP (CANBERRA) REPORTS DEF MIN BARNARD ANNOUNCEMENT THAT GOA HAS DECIDED TO BUY WEST GERMAN LEOPARD TANKS, INSTEAD OF US-BUILT M60; INITIAL ORDER FOR 53 LEOPARDS EXPECTED TO COST ABOUT 40 MIL DOL, WITH PRICE STILL TO BE NEGOTIATED. DELIVERIES BEGIN LATE 1976.

MELBOURNE POLICE ARREST MISSING UK MP, STONEHOUSE,

FOR ILLEGAL ENTRY, ON FALSE PASSPORT; HE DISAPPEARED FROM MIAMI LAST MONTH (AP, SUN). PM WILSON LAST WEEK DENIED CHARGES IN PARLIAMENT THAT FORMER LABOR GOVT MINISTER STONEHOUSE WAS CZECH SPY, OR CIA AGENT; ALSO BANGLADESH RELIEF FUND, IN WHICH HE PLAYED ROLE, DENIED IT CONSIDERABLY SHORT OF MONEY AFTER HIS DISAPPEARANCE (AP, WP).

REUTER REPORTS PAA OFFICE IN SYDNEY EXTENSIVELY DAMAGED BY SMOKE AND WATER, FOLLOWING GASOLINE BOMB ATTACK BY UNIDENTIFIED YOUTH WHO ESCAPED IN CHRISTMAS CROWD.
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8. INDONESIA

AFP (PARIS) REPORTS FRENCH FINANCE MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENT OF AGREEMENT SIGNED DEC 18, TO GRANT 40 MIL DOL AID TO INDONESIA, IN FORM OF GUARANTEED PRIVATE AND TREASURY LOANS TO BUY FRENCH GOODS AND SERVICES (WP).

9. BURMA

GUB RELEASES 250 PERSONS ARRESTED DURING RIOTS TWO WEEKS AGO (WP).

10. PHILIPPINES

GOP ANNOUNCES SURRENDER, TO ACCEPT AMNESTY, OF 1,200 LEADERS AND MEMBERS OF SOVIET-ORIENTED FACTION OF COMMUNIST PARTY OF PHILIPPINES, IN NUEVA ECIJA PROVINCE (WP).

UPI (MANILA) SAYS TROPICAL STORM KIT CAUSED LANDSLIDE 200 MILES SOUTHEAST OF MANILA, KILLING AT LEAST 12 PERSONS (WP).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

11. CHINA

SUN'S ED WU IN HK CITES NCNA REPORT THAT CHINA HAS SUSTAINED 20 PERCENT ANNUAL INCREASE IN PETROLEUM PRODUCTION AND GATHERED ANOTHER RECORD HARVEST OF FOOD GRAINS. WU SAYS RECENT SPECTACULAR GROWTH OF PRC'S OIL INDUSTRY AND ITS VAST PROTENTIAL ALREADY HAVE ATTRACTED KEEN INTEREST OF JAPANESE, WHO ARE SEEKING DIVERSIFICATION OF THEIR OIL SOURCES. AND CHINESE SEEM TO BE USING THEIR RESOURCES TO

DISCOURAGE JAPANESE FROM MOVING TOO CLOSE TO USSR
IN THEIR PROPOSED JOINT EXPLOITATION OF SIBERIAN
OIL RESOURCES. WITH CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION OUTSTRIPPING
REFINERY CAPACITY, CHINA WILL SOON BECOME OIL-EXPORTING
COUNTRY IN ASIAN MARKET. APART FROM JAPAN BUYING CRUDE
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FROM CHINA, IN ADDITION, THAILAND, PHILS, SRILANKA AND
HK ARE BEGINNING TO IMPORT PETROLEUM PRODUCTS FROM CHINA.

GENERALLY GOOD HARVEST ATTRIBUTED TO LAND IMPROVEMENT
PROJECTS, WATER CONSERVATION AND SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENTS
ON SEED STRAINS AND PROTECTION AGAINST DISEASE. IN
SPITE OF GOOD HARVEST FOR THIRTEEN CONSECUTIVE YEARS,
WU NOTES, CHINA IS STILL IMPORTING WHEAT AND CORN
MAINLY FROM US, CANADA, AUSTRALIA AND ARGENTINA.
CHINA ALSO EXPORTING RICE WHOSE PRICE IS DOUBLE THAT
OF WHEAT ON WORLD MARKET.

WP'S JACK ANDERSON (PHIL BULL DEC 22) NOTES THAT
ALTHOUGH US PRESIDENTS HAVE TRAVELED AFAR IN FE, NONE
HAS BOTHERED TO STOP IN TAIWAN SINCE EISENHOWER
VISITED THERE IN 1960. HAK HAS WHIPPED IN AND OUT

OF PEKING SEVEN TIMES IN LAST COUPLE OF YEARS; BUT
AS CAN BEST BE DETERMINED, HE HAS NEVER SET FOOT ON
TAIWAN. SAYS IF US AND CHINA RESUMED FULL DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS, IT LIKELY WOULD MEAN END OF FORMAL RELATIONS
WITH TAIWAN, SINCE PROPOSED TWO-CHINA POLICY WOULDN'T
WORK. THIS RAISES SOME TROUBLING QUESTIONS: WHAT DID
US TAXPAYERS GET FOR 6 BILLION THEY INVESTED IN CKS?
WHY WAS WASHINGTON WILLING TO RISK NUCLEAR WAR OVER
TWO OFFSHORE ISLANDS THAT NOW MEAN NOTHING TO US?
WHAT WILL BECOME OF US-TAIWAN MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY?
DOS CONTEMPLATING LAST QUESTION AND HAS TENTATIVELY
CONCLUDED THAT TREATY WOULD BE ABROGATED IN CASE US
RECOGNIZES MAO.

SUN'S TREWHITT WRITES ABOUT CHINESE WOMEN WHO HAVE
WORKED THEIR WAY INTO CORE OF CHINESE POWER; FEATURES
CHIANG CHING, NANCY TANG, WANG HAI-JUNG, AND CHANG HAN-
CHIEH - WIFE OF CHIAO KUAN-HUA.

WP'S GREENWAY IN HK CITES CHINA WATCHERS VIEWING
RECENT APPOINTMENTS OF FOUR NEW DEPUTY CHIEFS OF
STAFF AS PROBABLE RESULT OF SOME HARD POLITICAL
HORSE TRADING AMONG VARIOUS FACTIONS, POSSIBLY
LEADING TO APPOINTMENT OF NEW DEFENSE MINISTER AND
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NEW CHIEF OF STAFF. THERE HAS BEEN NO DEFENSE MINISTER OR CHIEF OF STAFF SINCE LIN PIAO DIED AND NAMING APPOINTEES TO THESE POSTS MIGHT BE ONE OF LONG-EXPECTED NPC'S FUNCTIONS.

GIVING RISE TO SPECULATION THAT DEPUTIES WERE CHOSEN AS PART OF COMPROMISE BETWEEN ARMY AND CIVILIANS, WHO HAVE BEEN TRYING TO GAIN TIGHTER CONTROL OVER MIL, IS LACK OF PATTERN IN POLITICAL HISTORIES OF DEPUTIES. TWO OF NEW DEPUTIES - YANG CHENG-WEN AND WANG SHANG-JUNG - WERE PURGED DURING GPCR. THIRD NEW DEPUTY - HU WEI - WAS NEVER PURGED AND WAS EVEN HELD UP AS EXAMPLE OF HOW ARMY OFFICER SHOULD SUPPORT LEFT; HE HAS GONE FROM PROMOTION TO PROMOTION IN PLA AND IS ALSO ALTERNATE MEMBER OF CCPCC. LESS IS KNOWN ABOUT FOURTH NEW DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF - HO CHENG-WU, WHO WAS SECOND-IN-COMMAND IN SZECHUAN PROVINCE AND APPEARS TO HAVE DROPPED FROM SIGHT DURING GPCR; AS FAR AS IS KNOWN, HE WAS NOT PUBLICLY PURGED.

NEW APPOINTMENTS TELL LITTLE ABOUT WHO MAY END UP AS MIN OF DEFENSE. THERE IS SPECULATION MAO MAY WANT CIVILIAN, OR PERHAPS MEMBER OF PARTY'S RADICAL LEFT WING, AND THAT ARMY IS RESISTING. THERE ALMOST CERTAINLY HAS BEEN RESISTANCE BY PLA TO SOME ATTEMPTS

TO EXERT CIVILIAN CONTROL OVER MIL, AS EVIDENCED BY CHINESE PRESS IN RECENT MONTHS AND BY REPORT ALLEGEDLY ISSUED BY WANG HUNG-WEN, NUMBER THREE MAN IN PRC WHO IS CONSIDERED RADICAL. WANG'S REPORT ADDRESSED ITSELF TO PROBLEM OF HOW TO EVALUATE GPCR, AND WANG IN SUPPOSED TO HAVE SAID IT WAS WRONG TO EVALUATE VETERAN CADRES IN TERMS OF SENIORITY INSTEAD OF PERFORMANCE IN CLASS STRUGGLE. IT WAS WRONG, HE SAID, THAT VETERAN CADRES WERE ALLOWED TO ATONE FOR THEIR SINS WHILE "ERRANT NEW CADRES" WERE NOT. WANG SAID THERE HAD BEEN "CONSIDERABLE RESISTANCE" TO THIS PRINCIPLE IN ARMY. GREENWAY ASSERTS THAT IF REPORT IS GENUINE, IT NOT ONLY SHOWS THERE HAS BEEN RESISTANCE IN ARMY TO SUGGESTIONS FROM CIVILIANS SUCH AS WANG, BUT ALSO DESIRE OF JUNIOR CADRES TO BECOME REVOLUTIONARY

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SUCCESSORS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

12. BURMA

NYT'S WEINTRAUB IN RANGOON DESCRIBES CITY AS TENSE

AND EERIE, WITH EVERYONE RESENTFUL AND GRUMBLING AMONG THEMSELVES. PRIVATELY, BUT RARELY IN PUBLIC, BURMESE SEEM DISENCHANTED WITH NE WIN'S TIGHT, RECLUSIVE ARMY DICTATORSHIP, WHICH HAS DRIVEN ECONOMY INTO REVERSE GEAR. ISSUE OF U THANT'S BURIAL WAS PROTEST AGAINST GOVT, SPIRALING UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG COLLEGE GRADS, LACK OF FREE SPEECH, 100 PERCENT INCREASE IN CONSUMER PRICES OVER LAST TWO YEARS, PETTY CORRUPTION AMONG CIVIL SERVANTS AND BLACK MARKET IN ALMOST EVERYTHING. CITES ASIAN DIPLOMAT THAT "TENSION IS HERE AND IT WILL REMAIN. SOMETHING WILL HAPPEN - IN ONE YEAR, TWO YEARS, WHENEVER. IT CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS."

WP'S JACK ANDERSON (PHIL BULL DEC 21) CITES "SHAN SOURCES WHO HAVE CONTACTED US THROUGH A TRUSTED INTERMEDIARY" THAT SHAN ARMIES ARE NEGOTIATING WITH COMMUNIST FORCES FOR JOINT MIL ACTION THAT COULD TURN BURMA INTO ANOTHER VN. UNDER BATTLE PLANS, PEKING-BACKED TROOPS OF CP, BURMA WOULD SECURE ARMS FROM PRC FOR SHAN AND ALLIED KACHEN FORCES IN BURMA. THEN FIGHTERS WOULD HEAD SOUTH, CUTTING ROAD BETWEEN SHAN CAPITALS OF TAUNGYI AND TENTUNG. INFORMANTS EXPECT MIL ACTION WITHIN FEW WEEKS. COMMUNIST-SHAN-KACHEN PLANS CALL FOR DEEP ADVANCES INTO BURMESE GOVT TERRITORY BEFORE APRIL WHEN MONSOONS WILL MAKE AREA IMPASSABLE. BURMESE ARMY FORCES ARE EXPECTED TO COUNTERATTACK, BUT THEY ARE IN POOR CONDITION, ACCORDING SOURCES. MOREOVER, BEST BURMESE TROOPS ARE NEEDED IN RANGOON AND OTHER CITIES, WHERE MARTIAL LAW HAD BEEN DECLARED FOLLOWING CIVIL RIOTING.

13. AUSTRALIA

LAT'S LAMB IN SYDNEY (DEC 21) REPORTS THAT ALMOST OVERNIGHT, ONCE-CONSERVATIVE AUSTRALIA HAS BECOME MAJOR MARKET FOR US PORN FILM INDUSTRY. ACCORDING LA FILM DISTRIBUTOR REPRESENTING 20 US PRODUCERS, UNCLASSIFIED

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CHANGE HAS BEEN INCREDIBLY FAST. IN TWO YEARS, AUSTRALIA HAS GONE FROM BEING ONE OF TIGHTEST CENSORS IN WESTERN WORLD TO ONE OF MOST LIBERAL; ONLY DENMARK AND US ARE MORE LIBERAL. KISSINGER

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED TO BUDAPEST.

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